GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2497
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2015
Trade Zones in North East Region
Ering Shri Ninong

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether the Government has set up any trade zones in North East region;
b) if so, the details thereof;
c) whether the Government is planning to boost trade activities in North Eastern States particularly in Arunachal Pradesh; and
d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)
(a)&(b) While the specific term 'trade zone' having not been designated, four 'Border Haats' on India-Bangladesh border are presently operational at Kalaichar and Balat in Meghalaya and Srinagar and Kamalasagar in Tripura. These 'Border Haats' promote cross-border trade through the traditional system of marketing of the local produce, by the people dwelling in remote areas, to the neighbouring country across the land border. Government has also decided 'in principle' to set up 13 Integrated Check Posts (ICP) to facilitate cross border trade under an integrated complex. Four(04) of these ICPs are in the North Eastern States of Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur and Mizoram.

(c)&(d) Yes, Madam. It has been a constant endeavour to boost trade activities in the North Eastern States. Several central agencies are also involved in promoting trade activities in the North East. India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) has organized East Himalayan Expo in Siliguri, West Bengal from December 5 to 13, 2015 to boost trade activities from the North Eastern States.

The North Eastern Council (NEC) Shillong has provided funding for two projects namely (i) Construction of State Emporium-cum-Artifacts House at Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh and (ii) Establishment of Entrepreneurship Development Institute at Jote, Papum Pare District in Arunachal Pradesh. These projects once implemented will promote entrepreneurship and trade activities in Arunachal Pradesh.

Spices Board through its two regional offices at Guwahati in Assam and Gangtok in Sikkim, implement various schemes for improving quality of the various spices grown in the North Eastern Region with a view to boost their export potential.

Three Special Economic Zones have been approved by the SEZ Board in the North Eastern Region, one in Imphal, Manipur and two in Nagaland.

APEDA regularly extends financial assistance through its various schemes to exporters and State Government organisations in the North Eastern Region including Arunachal Pradesh.
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